

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A tension decoupler device connecting two parts of a structure and fitted with rupture members, the rupture of which causes decoupling of said parts when they break, the device comprising:

a first tension transmitting element connected to a first part of said structure, said first tension transmitting element configured to apply a tension load to said first part of said tension decoupler device;

a second tension transmitting element connected to a second part of said structure, said second tension transmitting element configured to apply the tension load to said second part of said tension decoupler device;

a set of first rupture members arranged to be parallel to each other, each of the first rupture members including a zone of weakness configured to initiate a tensile rupture; and

a set of second rupture members, arranged to be parallel to each other and parallel to the first rupture members,

wherein each first rupture member is designed to break at a predetermined individual member tension load value, each second rupture member is designed to break only at individual member tension load values which are higher than said predetermined individual member tension load value, said second rupture members are designed to resist fatigue as long as the tension load does not reach said predetermined load value, and said first and second parts of said tension decoupler device are coupled together by said set of first rupture members and said set of second rupture members.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The decoupler device according to claim 1, wherein the number of first rupture members is the same as the number of second rupture members.

Claims 3 and 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The decoupler device according to claim 1, wherein the first rupture members and the second rupture members are distributed around a circular flange and the first rupture members and the second rupture members follow a regular alternating distribution along at least one average line of said flange.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The decoupler device according to claim 5, wherein each first rupture member is located between two second rupture members.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The decoupler device according to claim 5, wherein all the first rupture members and second rupture members are distributed around a same average line of the flange.

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The decoupler device according to claim 1, wherein the second rupture members are stiffer than the first rupture members.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The decoupler device according to claim 1, wherein the shape of the second rupture members is thicker than the shape of the first rupture members.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The decoupler device according to claim 1, wherein the first rupture members are first screws and the second rupture members are second screws.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The decoupler device according to claim 12, wherein ~~each of the first screws comprises a zone of weakness~~ of the first screws is located between a head and a thread thereof, ~~the zone of weakness being configured to initiate a tensile rupture.~~

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The decoupler device according to claim 13, wherein the zone of weakness comprises a portion with a reduced cross-section.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The decoupler device according to claim 13, wherein the zone of weakness comprises a portion from which material has been removed by drilling.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The decoupler device according to claim 13, wherein the zone of weakness is obtained by application of a local heat treatment.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The decoupler device according to claim 1, wherein the first rupture members are first rivets and the second rupture members are second rivets.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The decoupler device according to claim 1, wherein the first rupture members are first bolts and the second rupture members are second bolts.

Claims 19 and 20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A tension decoupler device connecting a casing to an intermediate casing of a turbofan engine, the casing and the intermediate casing being part of a structure fitted with rupture members, the rupture of which causes decoupling of the casing and the intermediate casing, the device comprising:

the casing of the turbofan engine comprising a flange fixed to a back end portion of the casing, the flange comprising first and second pluralities of holes;

the intermediate casing comprising a surface portion configured to abut a portion of a surface of the flange, the intermediate casing comprising first and second pluralities of holes corresponding, respectively, to the first and second pluralities of holes in the casing;

a first tension transmitting element connected to said flange, said first tension transmitting element configured to apply a tension load to said flange;

a second tension transmitting element connected to said intermediate casing, said second tension transmitting element configured to apply the tension load to said intermediate casing;

a set of first rupture members inserted through both first pluralities of holes, each of the first rupture members including a zone of weakness configured to initiate a tensile rupture ~~of the set comprising a weak zone~~; and

a set of second rupture members inserted through both second pluralities of holes, wherein each first rupture member is designed to break at a predetermined individual member tension load value, each second rupture member is designed to break only at individual member tension load values which are higher than said predetermined individual member tension load value, the set of second rupture members are designed to resist fatigue as long as the tension load does not reach the predetermined value, and the set of first rupture members are designed to break before the set of second rupture members.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A tension decoupler device connecting two parts of a structure and fitted with rupture members, the rupture of which causes decoupling of said parts when they break, the device comprising:

a first tension transmitting element connected to a first part of said structure, said first tension transmitting element configured to apply a tension load to said first part of said tension decoupler device;

a second tension transmitting element connected to a second part of said structure, said second tension transmitting element configured to apply the tension load to said second part of said tension decoupler device;

a set of first rupture members arranged to be parallel to each other, each of the first rupture members including a zone of weakness configured to initiate a tensile rupture; and

a set of second rupture members, arranged to be parallel to each other and parallel to the first rupture members,

wherein said first and second parts of said tension decoupler device are coupled together by said set of first rupture members and said set of second rupture members,

each first rupture member is designed to break at a predetermined individual member tension load value, each second rupture member is designed to break only at individual member tension load values which are higher than said predetermined individual member tension load value, and

when the tension load applied to the decoupler device exceeds a predetermined total tension load value, said first rupture members break and then said second rupture members break.